

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,646,921). In response, Applicants amended claims 1-2 to further define a controlling step which switches and controls the rotational speed of the recording medium depending on whether an access request is a sequential access request or a random access request, and also depending on an area of the recording medium accessed in response to the access request. Applicants further define the area as a plurality of areas independent of a plurality of zones, and including first, second and third areas, each of which are capable of being set to specified speeds SP1, SP2, and SP3 having a relationship  $SP1 < SP2 < SP3$ , and respectfully traverse.

Column 11, lines 28-63 of Yokota cited by the Examiner merely describes that a step S3 shown in FIG. 2 sets a virtual zone and a number of rotations of a CLV disk, and also that information is read into RAM for buffering by the transmission rate corresponding to a number of rotations. Furthermore, Yokota teaches that at the same time the information is read out at the output rate set on a basis of the processing capacity of the host computer.

Col. 15, lines 36-61 of Yokota, which are also cited by the Examiner, merely describe that if the information volume accumulated in the RAM for buffering exceeds a predetermined value or if the transmission rate exceeds the upper limit value, then the number of rotations of the CLV disk is updated on the basis of the information reading position on the CLV disk and a lower limit value of the transmission rate.

Yokota fails to teach or suggest the combination of the controlling step depending on the access request being a sequential or random access and the plurality of areas having the specified speed relationships, as now defined in amended independent claim 1.

More specifically, claim 1 is amended to clarify that a controlling step switches and controls a rotational speed of the recording medium based on the state detected by the detecting step, depending on whether an access request is a sequential access request or a random access request. The controlling step also depends on an area of the recording medium access in response to the access request, where the area is one of a plurality of areas of the recording medium dividing the recording medium in the radial direction thereof. Furthermore, claim 1 now calls for the plurality of areas as being independent of the plurality of zones, and including at least a first area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of being set to a first rotational speed SP1, a second area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of being set to the first speed SP1 or a second speed SP2, and a third area in which the rotational speed of the recording medium is capable of being set to the first speed SP1, the second speed SP2 or a third speed SP3, where  $SP1 < SP2 < SP3$ .

The features recited above in amended claim 1 are fully supported in the specification on page 15, lines 31-34 and FIGs. 3 and 5-6. Since Yokota fails to disclose these features, withdrawal of the §102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota, and further in view of Syobatake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,083,269). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above.

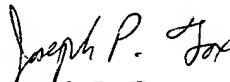
Syobatake is cited by the Examiner as teaching a method of giving priority to a task at hand. That is, to give priority to rotational speed and use. However, Syobatake merely mentions a buffer management scheme, but does not teach or suggest how a buffer management scheme may be applied to the control of the switching of the rotational speed of the recording medium, as now recited in amended claim 1. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 3-4 is respectfully requested.

New claims 17-19 are added and depend from independent claim 1. Support for these claims can be found in Applicants' specification on page 30, lines 6-16, page 31, lines 26-27, and page 35, lines 26-37. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 17-19 for the reasons recited above to overcome the rejection of independent claim 1, and also because of the features they recite.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 21, 2005

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